Claims

1   1.   A system supporting the playback of multi-media content in a virtual

2 program format through a content player, said system comprising:

3   a) a memory store providing for the storage of a plurality of digital content;

4   b) a player interface supporting the transfer of a digital content stream to

5 a content player and for receiving user input; and

6   c) a content control system coupled between said memory store and said

7 player interface, said content control system including a network proxy,

8 coupleable through a network to a content server and a control file server, and

9 a program control system, responsive to the programmatic evaluation of a control

10 file, to selectively transfer digital content from said content server to said memory

11 store and to define a dynamic program order for selectively streaming said

12 plurality of digital content from said last-element cache through said player

13 interface as said digital content stream, wherein said dynamic program order is

14 determined based on said control file subject to predetermined selective variation

15 based on said user input.

1   2.   A system supporting the playback of multi-media content in a virtual

2 program, said system comprising:

3   a) a last-element cache memory providing for the storage of a plurality of

4 digital content;

5   b) a content player operative to perform a digital content stream and

6 provide user input; and

7 c) a cache control system coupled between said last-element cache and

8 said content player, said cache control system including a network proxy,

9 coupleable through a network to a content server and a control file server, and

10 a program control system, responsive to the programmatic evaluation of a control

11 file, to selectively transfer digital content from said content server to said last-

12 element cache memory and to define a dynamic program order for selectively

13 streaming said plurality of digital content from said last-element cache to said

14 content player as said digital content stream, wherein said dynamic program

15 order is determined based on said control file subject to predetermined selective

16 variation based on said user input.

1 3. The system of claim 2 wherein said plurality of digital content includes a

2 plurality of discrete content objects and wherein said program control system is

3 responsive to a plurality of predefined constraints on the order and frequency that

4 said discrete content objects are streamed to said content player such that said

5 dynamic program order is compliant with said plurality of constraints.

1 4. The system of Claim 3 wherein said cache control system stores said user

2 input relative to said discrete content objects in a user input store and wherein

3 said program control system is coupled to said user input store to qualify said

4 dynamic program order with respect to said user input subject to compliance with

5 said plurality of constraints.

1 5. The system of Claim 3 wherein said plurality of constraints include the

2 constraints defined by the Digital Millennium Copyright Act.

1   6.   The system of Claim 5 wherein said user input specifies the blocking of a
2   corresponding one of said discrete content objects.